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Attention has been given rather to the pleasing side of Mexico than to the squalid and unmoral. Hence the story, though advisedly incomplete, is perhaps more welcome, for it brings before us the best side of the people. Considering that the other side is so frequently emphasized unduly, it is a satisfaction to find an author who can see beauty amid unpleasant surroundings and who interprets motives as well as actions. A "globe trotter" could not write such a book, even if he tried. "Mexican Trails" is a book for the general reader, but it contains much for the geographer who is interested in the more subtle features of environment and life, even if they can not be strictly ordered according to scientific theory.

R. E. D.

Grammatik und Vokabularium der Bongu-Sprache (Astrolabebai, Kaiser-Wilhelmsland). Von A. Hanke, Rheinischer Missionar in Deutsch-Neuguinea. Mit einer Karte, einer wortvergleichenden Tabelle von neun Orten des Astrolabegebietes und einem Vokabularium der Sungumana-Sprache. xii and 252 pp. Georg Reimer, Berlin, 1909.

Grammatik der Neu-Mecklenburgischen Sprache, speziell der Pala-Sprache. Von P. Gerhard Peekel, Missionar v. hlst. Herzen Jesu. xiv and 216 pp., and Map. Georg Reimer, Berlin, 1909.

These are volumes 8 and 9 of the classic works, which, under the enthusiastic supervision of Dr. Eduard Sachau, are published by the Seminar für orientalische Sprachen under the collective title of "Archiv für das Studium deutscher Kolonial-sprachen." Such works as these (already including from this oceanic tract, Fritz on the Chamorro, Erdland on the Marshall Islands and Constantini on New Britain), sufficiently confute Pastor Hanke's complaint that German science has, in the present colonial era, left the oceanic languages wholly unnoticed. Regretfully he notes the activity of the English in this field. Yet his own work, now offered to students, is entirely outside competition by any English work upon any of the languages, loosely, and we believe incorrectly, classed as Malayo-polynesian. The English missionaries more or less successfully have produced grammars and vocabularies merely as tools of their trade, vehicles for the instruction of younger mission workers sent out to relieve their elders. These two German missionaries have succeeded in producing classic works; they have laid foundations upon which future philological study can build with confidence in a group of human speech which, unless our own investigations are wholly wide of the mark, may be expected to yield most valuable contributions to the evolution of language and to shed a brighter light upon the acquisition of speech itself.

Though the two languages dealt with in these volumes are near neighbours on the charts, they are scarcely associable in a single particular. This is easy of comprehension to those who are familiar with the impassable distances which separate cannibal neighbours even when in immediate proximity. The Bongu is of the family provisionally named Papuan, the Pala of the Melanesian. In the case of each provisional class we are not yet in a position to determine whether they have a real family existence or are to serve as a temporary confession of our ignorance. That they are radically distinct, however, is made clear by these two works.

The purpose of the two books is differentiated by the titles. Pastor Hanke, with grammar, dictionary and most interesting record of the Papuan storyteller's art, has completed such a manual of the Bongu language as must be the envy of all who are working in this little known field. Father Peekel, on the other hand,

has produced a study of the grammar of his people's tongue. As grammar it is noteworthy; we can only hope that it will, in no long time, be followed by a vocabulary along lines exhibiting similar inspiration toward true research.

Not only in grammatical method and in the speech radicals do these two languages show no agreement, but they are far from showing equal traces of the borrowing of word material from the Polynesian migration stream which passed through the narrow seas of that eastern portal out of Indonesia. In a systematic collation of the Bongu material, the whole vocabulary, so far as Hanke in a dozen years was able to acquire it, we have encountered but three words which we have had the slightest encouragement to identify with Indonesian or Polynesian material. In Pala, on the other hand, and this without the advantage of a vocabulary but only from the examination of the illustrations scattered throughout Father Peekel's grammatical treatise, we have recorded no less than 54 words which are undoubtedly Polynesian loan material. On the scale of quality which we have developed in current studies of this loan element in other Melanesian languages, that is the estimate of the comprehensibility of such words to a Samoan as representing the Nuclear Polynesian, the Pala material ranks high, 80 per cent.

To the student of primitive culture Hanke's work will come with a particular appeal. He seems to have been a most observant pastor, his dictionary is replete with fond record of the black arts of his catechumens, with many an illuminative side light upon manners and customs of such as would probably strike the chance traveller as most unmannerly folk indeed.

In Father Peekel's work, purely grammar though it be, the geographer will read with interest his chapter on direction names. Parallels and meridians and cardinal points so condition our life that we are not always alive to the fact that they are artificial, the product of a high culture. In another connection we shall take up for consideration the direction constants of the Polynesians, seaward, landward, up and down the wind, the constant tradewind. The Pala of New Ireland (for not yet are we at all cordially inclined to acquiesce in the brutality of the German theft of Dampier's names in this archipelago) has a similar system of co-ordinates based upon direction in relation to the sea. It requires for its comprehension the chart with which the author illustrates it, but with that assistance it will prove of great interest to all who concern themselves with the growth of geography.

Linguistic records from this region are of great value in connection with the investigation of the great migration into the central and eastern Pacific. From the examination of the material hitherto available there has been good reason to assign to one stream of that migration an exit from Indonesia through an eastern portal, the straits between New Britain and New Ireland. This new material is richly confirmatory from the New Ireland side and further proves that the canoe fleets avoided the dark land of New Guinea. We are further warranted in tracing this migration stream from this eastern portal always hugging the wind and eventually reaching Samoa without touching Fiji.

W. C.

The Story of Majorca and Minorca. By Sir Clements R. Markham. x and 309 pp., 2 Maps, and Index. Smith, Elder & Co., London, 1908. Price, 7s. 6d.

The purpose of the author is to familiarize English readers with the early history of these beautiful islands, which are less known than other Mediterranean